

HOME and COUNTRY

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Chairmen of Women's Institute Conventions, 1937



Mrs. D. Z. Gibson, Caledonia
CHAIRMAN HAMILTON
CONVENTION



Mrs. A. D. Macdougall, Maxville
CHAIRMAN OTTAWA
CONVENTION



Mrs. A. E. Walker, Bartonville
CHAIRMAN DOMINION
CONVENTION



Mrs. J. M. Abbott, Erin
CHAIRMAN TORONTO
CONVENTION



Mrs. Wm. Elliott, Galt
CHAIRMAN LONDON
CONVENTION

ONTARIO CONVENTIONS WILL EMPHASIZE RURAL NEEDS

Practically all the committees in charge of the 13 Women's Institute conventions to be held in Ontario this fall have their plans well developed. The places of meeting and the dates of each of these conventions were given on page 4 of the May issue of "Home and Country".

Women well experienced in Institute work are taking charge of the conventions this year. Mrs. J. M. Abbott of Erin, Chairman of Toronto Area, has been president of her branch and provincial convener of Education. Mrs. Wm. Elliott, Galt, has also had presidential experience and is serving her second year as the Chairman of the London Area. Mrs. D. Z. Gibson is the new chairman of the Hamilton Area where she has been district president of Haldimand Co. Mrs. A. D. MacDougall is the newly elected Chairman of the Ottawa Area and brings to it the reputation of a successful provincial convener. Mrs. Clarence Holmes, Mrs. R. M. Black, Mrs. A. M. Church, Mrs. E. L. Carter and Mrs. R. D. Henderson are Chairmen of the Belleville, Barrie, Sundridge, Kenora and Harriston Conventions respectively; they have been successful district officials. Mrs. J. M. Coghill, Mrs. Robert Boyter and Mrs. A. S. Smith are institute workers of much experience who will take charge of the conventions at Elk Lake, Little Current and Richard's Landing.

Such subjects as the new curriculum for Ontario schools and desirable improvements in rural education, public health facilities, mental hygiene, economic status of agriculture, community hygiene, sanitation of the rural home, opportunities for the rural girl, adult education, family relationships, etc., will be discussed as well as the reports of the various standing committees.

The majority of the conventions have some social festivity that will give the delegates an opportunity to become acquainted. It may take the form of a banquet, a tea, a reception, or a sight-seeing tour, depending upon where the convention is held.

TWO QUEENS ARE JOINT PRESIDENTS OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Two British Queens, Their Majesties Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth are joint presidents of the Sandringham Women's Institute, of England. For more than two decades Queen Mary was its first and only president and Canadian Women's Institute members everywhere have considered this a signal honour to the Women's Institute movement, which had its origin in Canada 40 years ago.

The Sandringham branch was organized by Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., the Canadian woman who took the Women's Institute idea to England in 1915. In telling of this event Mrs. Watt says: "My first visit to Sandringham was at the request of Her Majesty Queen Mary, when I was asked to speak about the then new Women's Institute movement of the estate. The meeting was, of course, arranged some time ahead, but when the sad death of young Prince John occurred just before, it seemed unlikely that Her Majesty would attend. But typical of her devotion to duty and unwilling to disappoint others Her Majesty came.

Describes Institute Work

"My talk was on the Women's Institute movement with special reference to one being organized at Sandringham. I heard from the Minister of Agriculture afterwards that Her Majesty was very pleased, but the only comment of the moment was "You did not tell about Canadian fruit-bottling"—and I had to make another speech! The meeting decided to have a Women's Institute and afterwards the Queen talked with me several times, asking practical questions and saying with her good-bye—"What I like best is the spirit of it all". Princess Mary, attended by her French Governess, was also present and made several jokes afterwards about my stories. Her governess told of fruit-bottling in France.

"My next visit was two years ago

when I spoke on 'How Country Women have built up an Empire', in which I embodied an account of the Associated Countrywomen of the World. It was a regular Institute meeting, at which, as is her custom when in residence, the Queen and her ladies-in-waiting were present. The entertainment included a comic song led by a nervous comedian who urged us all repeatedly to join in the chorus. I remember Queen Mary saying audibly at last,—'But we are trying'. This was followed by a play with a caste chosen from the servants of the estate and the Queen identified the players for me. Those who had tea later at a table at which Her Majesty officiated included the head gardener's daughter, the wife of a tenant farmer and the wife of the chief herdsman. I had brought some illustrations of the newly-named 'King's Highway' in Ontario, which Her Majesty asked if she might show the King. 'He does not know of this highway and he will be so pleased', she remarked.

Queen Elizabeth Interested

Queen Elizabeth's association with the Scottish Women's Institutes began when, as a young girl, she belonged to the Knebworth W. I. in the village of her family's English estate. "I was invited to speak there just before the announcement of her engagement", said Mrs. Watt, "and I heard much of the winsome girl who entered so gaily into Institute work and play. A few years ago she, with her mother, the Countess of Strathmore, visited the famous W. I. needlework exhibition at London. The latter, too, is interested in Institute work and has shown much kindness and hospitality to rural members at their Scottish home, Glamis—the beautiful, if awesome castle of legend and history."

(Contributed by Mrs. E. Bailey-Price, Publicity Secretary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.)

DOMINION CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN TORONTO

All Institute members are cordially invited to attend the convention sessions of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada which will be held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on November 18. The Toronto Convention Area of the Women's Institutes of Ontario has freed this date from its own programme in order that its delegates might attend sessions devoted to institute matters of national interest.

Mrs. A. E. Walker of Bartonville, Ontario, is president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and will preside at the convention on November 18. Other Ontario women connected with the Dominion Board are: Mrs. R. B. Colloton who is on the Dominion Executive and acts as the national convener of the committee on Peace Education and International Relationships; Mrs. Allan R. Lancefield who is corresponding secretary; Miss Bess McDermand who is ex-officio a member of the National Board; and Mrs. T. J. McDowell who, with Mrs. Colloton, will act as the official delegates from Ontario.

The programme for the one-day national convention will consist of round table conferences and addresses on prominent problems that are a part of the responsibilities of Women's Institutes.

It is expected that Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir will address the convention; also Miss Grace Fry-singer, Washington, D.C., Senior Home Economist of Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture of United States, and the representative of Canada and United States on the executive of the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

A collection of handicraft work—twelve articles from each province—will be on display at the Royal Winter Fair. Mrs. Harvey Harris, past president of the Toronto Convention Area, will be in charge of this exhibit and will be assisted by Miss Edith Hopkins of the Women's Institute Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.